

An Initiative to Improve Surgical Site Infection Bundle Metrics Adherence Specific to Post-Op Warming and Temperature Documentation Practices in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit

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Introduction: The post-op warming temperature documentation and practices project focused on addressing critical quality issues related to documentation and education gaps in the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) microsystem.

Identification of the Problem: The post-anesthesia care unit suffered from inconsistent practices and documentation by the staff that drove poor performance and reported results, which led to the quality improvement project and the formation of the department's SSI quality lead and champions. Fifty percent of the fallouts represented wrong-time documentation of post-op warming and temperature, and 50% represented no documentation because staff did not know the process of the SSI Bundle metrics.

QI Question/Purpose of the Study: For post-surgical patients, does documenting post-op warming and temperature three minutes after the patient's arrival in the unit, compared to documenting post-op warming and temperature one minute after the patient's arrival in the unit, increase adherence to post-op warming documentation for Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle Metrics in the PACU by July 31, 2024.

Methods: The project's outcome measure was the percentage of compliance in the SSI Monthly Compliance Report, with a target of 90% or higher.

Outcomes/Results: The project, which sought to raise the documentation of post-operative warming from 77% to above 90% by July 31, 2024, has consistently achieved 100% result year-to-date (July 2024)

Discussion: Three interventions were implemented using the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) tool in the design phase. PDSA involved Kamishibai (process observation) cards (K-cards) for real-time coaching for excellence among the staff, thus solidifying process standardization for post-op warming documentation and practice measurement.

Conclusion: The project demonstrated that staff were more likely to follow standards and protocols with thorough education, adequate support, and sufficient equipment. It proved valuable and sustainable, provided ongoing education, and promoted ongoing process observations, particularly for new staff members. The project proved successful with documentation adherence that was consistently achieved at 100% from its initiation this year.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: The project's success was also a testament to the power of collaboration among key stakeholders and innovative information sharing, both of which were pivotal for the project's success. Through process observations, leaders identified specific team members grappling with the metrics and the importance of proper documentation.